

CLAIMS

The claims are listed as follows:

1. (Original) A method comprising:
defining a phase modulation component (PMC) of a modulation symbol as an integer multiple of fundamental time units (FTU's);
defining a set of modulation symbols in which a PMC in one symbol may overlap a position of a PMC in another symbol; and
encoding data as at least one symbol of the set.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the PMC is defined as a rise time at the transmitter for a single amplitude transition plus a time spacer during which no transition is permitted.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein a total number of mixed amplitude modulation (AM)/phase modulation (PM) states is given by the equation:

$$\text{Total States } (T_1) = \sum_{n=1}^{\text{Fix}(S/T)} B^n \sum_{m=1}^n C(n,m) * (S - n * T + 1)^m$$

where S is a symbol period;

T is the time during which a single amplitude transition may occur between edges plus the time space during which edge transitions are not permitted;

B is a number of amplitude transitions permitted per edge; and

C(n,m) is a two dimensional matrix of coefficients.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the total number of mixed amplitude modulation (AM)/phase modulation (PM)/Rise Time (RT) states for 2 different rise times or different length modulation objects is given by the equation:

Total States $(T_1, T_2) =$

$$\sum_{n_1=1}^{\text{Fix}(S/T_1)} \sum_{n_2=1}^{\text{Fix}((S-T_1)/T_2)} B_1^{n_1} B_2^{n_2} ((n_1 + n_2)! / (n_1! n_2!)) \sum_{m=1}^{n_1+n_2} C((n_1 + n_2), m) * (S - n_1 T_1 - n_2 T_2 + 1)^m$$

T_i is the time during which a single amplitude transition may occur between edges plus the time space during which edge transitions are not permitted in the i^{th} modulation object;

B_i is a number of amplitude transitions permitted in the i^{th} modulation object; and $C((n_1 + n_2), m)$ is a two dimensional matrix of coefficients.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein encoding comprises:
amplitude modulating at least one bit in the symbol.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein encoding comprises:
rise time modulating at least one bit.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein defining a plurality of modulation symbols comprises:
populating a symbol period of S FTUs with modulation objects (T) having a width of N FTUs; where S and N are integers.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein defining a plurality of modulation symbols comprises:
defining a maximum number of amplitude transitions per state.
9. (Original) An apparatus comprising:
mapping logic to generate a plurality of control signals to control edge transitions in a modulation symbol; and
a plurality of delay elements coupled to a clock to ensure transition in the modulation symbol occur at integer multiples of a fundamental time unit (FTU).
10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the modulation symbol has phase modulation features and amplitude modulation features.
11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the modulation symbol has phase modulation features and rise time modulation features.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein modulation objects are integer multiples of the FTU.
13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein a modulation object is defined by a rise time plus a maximum spacer before another transition is permitted.
14. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:
 - a slot in edge group detector to determine if a transition occurred during an edge group having a plurality of fundamental time units (FTU's);
 - demapping logic to extract data from the occurrence of the transition within an FTU of the edge group; and
 - an amplitude (AM) demodulator to identify data encoded in an amplitude level.
15. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 14 further comprising:
 - an edge detector to generate phase slot sized pulses responsive to an incoming signal.
16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the demapping logic comprises:
 - an edge group to symbol converter; and
 - a symbol to data converter.
17. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 14 further comprising:
 - a form synchronization unit to synchronize an output of the AM demodulator and the demapping logic.
18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 14 further comprising:
 - a clock diskew unit to center a phase demodulation eye and an amplitude demodulation eye at a center of an FTU.

19. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:
modulating data using symbols having a symbol period defined as an integer multiple of a fundamental time units (FTU), the symbol having modulation objects that are integer multiples of the FTU; and
demodulating the symbols to recover the data.
20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 19 further comprising:
providing a forwarded clock to receive with the symbols.
21. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 19 wherein demodulating comprises:
recovering an embedded clock from a data stream including the symbols.
22. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 19 further comprising:
regenerating the symbols between the modulating and demodulating without demodulating the symbols; and
repeating the symbols over a communication channel.
23. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 19 wherein modulating comprises:
encoding a fractional bit between a plurality of modulations; and
wherein demodulating comprises recovering the bit by decoding the encoded fraction at a plurality of demodulators.
24. (Withdrawn) A system comprising:
a modulator to encode data in symbols having a symbol period that is an integer multiple of a fundamental time unit (FTU), each symbol having amplitude transition components that occur on an FTU time slot;
forwarded clock logic to mimic a delay through the modulator; and
a demodulator coupled to the modulator and forwarded clock logic to decode the data from the symbols.

25. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 24 further comprising at least a second modulator and demodulator wherein at least one data bit may be fractionally encoded across a plurality of modulators and decoded by a plurality of demodulators.

26. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 24 further comprising:
a regenerative repeater coupled between the modulator and the demodulator,
the regenerative repeater to regenerate the symbols without demodulating the symbols.